

BEAT GENERATION
and
HIPPIE MOVEMENT

Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* (1956), William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch* (1959) and Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* (1957) are among the best known examples of Beat literature. Both *Howl* and *Naked Lunch* were the focus of obscenity trials that ultimately helped to liberalize publishing in the United States.

The Beat Generation was a group of American post-World War II writers who came to prominence in the 1950s, as well as the cultural phenomena that they both documented and inspired. Central elements of "Beat" culture included rejection of received standards, innovations in style, use of illegal drugs, alternative sexualities, an interest in religion and a rejection of materialism.

The members of the Beat Generation developed a reputation as newbohemian hedonists, who celebrated non-conformity and spontaneous creativity.

In the 1960s, elements of the expanding Beat movement were incorporated into the **hippie** movement.

Hippie (or hippy) subculture was originally a youth movement that arose in the United States during the mid-1960s and spread to other countries around the world. The word 'hippie' came from hipster, and was initially used to describe beatniks who had moved into New York City's Greenwich Village and San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district.

Early hippies inherited the language and countercultural values of the Beat Generation.

Hippies created their own communities, embraced the sexual revolution and used drugs - such as cannabis and LSD - to explore altered states of consciousness.

From around 1967, its fundamental ethos — including **harmony with nature, communal living, artistic experimentation particularly in music** (psychedelic music), and the widespread use of recreational drugs — spread around the world.

Anti-war protests: opposition to the Vietnam War

Although there were many different groups and elements protesting the US military involvement in Vietnam as it began to escalate, many of the protesters, rightly or wrongly, came to be associated with aspects of the "hippie" movement in the popular view.

A number of them had been highly active in the Civil Rights movement in the first half of the 1960s, traveling across the country to take part in sit-ins and marches against segregation in the South. The first **draft card burnings** took place May 12, 1964 in New York City. Others followed, including more draft-card burnings in May 1965 at the University of California.